

# CANTON PARK COMMISSION

## BOARD MINUTES

OCTOBER, 2012

The Canton Board of Park Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, October 10, 2012 at the Garden Center Building.

Present were; Mr. Andy Black, President; Mr. Wuyanbu Zutali, Vice President; and Mr. Douglas V. Perry, Director/Secretary. There were also several attendees at the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 4:07 P.M.

The first item of business was the reading of the minutes of the September 19, 2012 regular meeting. A motion was made by A. Black to approve them as written. A second was provided by W. Zutali, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Old Riverside Park Issues – The Director reported that he had again sent an email to Mr. Burns of the Law Department asking for an update but had not yet received a response from him. Mr. Zutali also had nothing new so the issue remained tabled.
2. Recycle/Ad Proposal – Mr. Gordon of the Mayor's office told the Board that he had been told there was a manufacturing problem and the bins were now not due until sometime in November.
3. Staffing and Personnel Issues – The Director reported that he had heard a rumor that the civil case would have more activity around the 25<sup>th</sup> of this month. He had also heard that the State Audit was due back. At this point the Director presented the Board a letter informing them that it was his intention to retire and that his last day of work would be November 30, 2012. Mr. Black read the letter from the Director aloud so those at the meeting would know what it contained. Mr. Black stated that he would like to revisit the appointments of Mr. Foltz and Ms. Vincent as soon as was possible. He said this needed to be done. The Director was instructed to arrange for a special meeting on October 19 or as soon as was possible after that date.
4. Adopt-A-Park Proposal – Mr. Zutali stated he had a conversation with the union president and there was still a desire to wait until all the issues surrounding the possible Park and Recreation consolidation were settled.
5. Mayor Healy's proposal to disband the Park Commission – The Director and Mr. Gordon of the Mayor's office gave the Board an update regarding the last meeting of the Park and Recreation committee. Most of the conversation was about if the new organization should be a district or a department under public works. They also talked about the hows any whys of a levy to fund the organization and recognizing that they did not want to put the current Recreation District levy in a bad position if the new levy attempt failed. The Director also supplied the Board with all the handouts from the meeting.

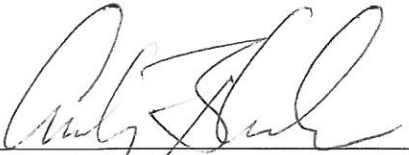
6. Possible relocation of the Park System lay down area – The Director reported to the Board that he had been informed since the last meeting that the area suggested for the Park System to move to was an area that had a good chance of being an area that could see a major development within 5 years and if so it would cause the Park System to have to find yet another place to which to relocate. Mr. Gordon stated that the information was correct the area could see a development project within 3 to 5 years. Mr. Black stated that if we moved there the area should be turned over to the Park Commission and if not and the area was needed for development then no deal. Mr. Black also said he would bring the possible move up with the Service Director. He also said that this was his problem with turning over the parks to any city administration. He felt the parks would just be viewed as future development sites. Mr. Black stated he had seen in the handouts that there may be a future Advisory Board to see after the parks with the new organization but he said Advisory Boards only brought advice to the table and had no authority.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

1. Ms. Alice Sarver of the O.U.R. Neighborhood Association stated she was very pleased that the new playset had been installed at the playground. She thought it was a great start to the upgrading of the area. Mr. Cote of the same group stated it had really got the kids involved with the playground. Ms. Sarver also stated the park system was going to help them get the sign repaired and provide them with paint so they could paint the old rocket climber.
2. Councilmember Jim Griffin reported to the Board that the Harter Heights Neighborhood Association turned out 16 people at Greenacres Park and planted seven trees and did some seeding and mulching one day last month. Once again they did this with the assistance of the park system employees.

Being no further business before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 P.M.

  
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Andy Black, President

  
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Douglas V. Perry, Director/Secretary